



## 2005 USAID Summer Seminars Series

The Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination, in coordination with the Knowledge for Development Subcommittee, is pleased to announce that eight topics have been selected for presentation at the USAID 2005 Summer Seminar Series. The topics that were chosen, with details found below, were drawn from a number of interesting and compelling nominations. The seminar planning group extends its appreciation to all who suggested a session topic and offered to serve as a session organizer.

The Summer Seminar Series provides a workshop format for presentations and panel discussions that allow participants to explore special topics in performance, implementation, measurement and evaluation, policy, management, and business operations. The selected topics will bring presenters from within USAID, other US government agencies, and our partner community. These knowledge sharing sessions will be held from July 7 to August 30, 2005.

While these seminar sessions are designed for USAID staff, the broader development community (PVOs, development contractors, academics, etc.) is welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

### **2005 Summer Seminar Series details are:**

- WHEN:**
- Thursday session: July 7
  - Tuesday sessions: July 12, July 19, July 26, Aug 2, Aug 9, Aug 16, Aug 30
  - All sessions are from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- WHERE:**
- The Center for Association Leadership at the Marriott Learning Complex is located in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Main entrances to the Ronald Reagan Building are located on 14th Street and along Woodrow Wilson Plaza at 13th and Penn Ave. The Center for Association Leadership is located on the Concourse Level (one floor below street level) near the Metro entrance to the Ronald Reagan Building. The Center is on your left before the Metro passageway. If taking Metro, the Federal Triangle metro stop (blue and orange lines) is connected to the Ronald Reagan Building by a covered passageway. The Center will be immediately on your right as you enter.
- OTHER:**
- A photo ID is needed to enter the Ronald Reagan Building.
- REGISTRATION:**
- There is no pre-registration, but we recommend that visitors arrive at least 20 minutes early to pass building security and to get a good seat.
- QUESTIONS:**
- For additional information, please contact Cindy Arciaga at (202) 661-5859 or by e-mail at [carciaga@dis.cdie.org](mailto:carciaga@dis.cdie.org). Information is available on the web at: [www.usaid.gov/policy/cdie](http://www.usaid.gov/policy/cdie).

The eight session topics, dates and descriptions are provided below. Subsequent notices will be provided as weekly reminders the Friday before each session.

## **JULY 7 -- EXORCISING DEMONS OF THE PAST: SEIZING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC POLICING**

**Session Organizer: Liz Hume, DCHA/CMM**

In recent years, an increasing number of countries have suffered from instability, insecurity, and conflict. Compounding the problem is endemic state incapacity to protect citizens and provide adequate security. Civilian police are a central security sector institution, given their primary responsibility for establishing and maintaining order and security. However, burdened by corruption, low wages, and a lack of training and resources, the police are commonly viewed by society as irrelevant to citizens and in some cases, as victimizing the population. While security sector reform is complex in most developing countries, it is particularly problematic in post-conflict countries. Post-conflict situations often require police assistance to address the "security gap" created between demobilization and reform of military forces that had usurped domestic security responsibilities.

In this session, the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation will provide an overview of the importance of security to development, USAID's authority to operate in this field, USAID's role in security sector reform/police programs, and types of police programming that may be conducted. In an interactive case exercise, participants will discuss whether police assistance is appropriate, and if so, which types of programming would best suit the case country. The session will conclude with a discussion of the issues identified and possible approaches to address them.

## **JULY 12 -- GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS: IMPROVING MANAGEMENT, GETTING RESULTS, AND COMMUNICATING THE U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE STORY**

**Session Organizer: Carrie Stokes, EGAT/NRM**

USAID's Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade Bureau is enlisting geospatial information systems (GIS) to measure and manage a range of activities, particularly in the area of natural resource management. A GIS can collect, organize, analyze, and display spatially-related information, including remotely sensed data, output from global positioning systems, statistics, and digital maps.

This session will present a vision for tracking results using GIS technology. Through applications in USAID's development work, GIS can offer tools to support an over-arching management information system for the agency. Discussion will focus on how a GIS can help track ongoing activities, measure output, evaluate programs, assist partners, communicate results, and make improved decisions. A question and answer period will follow the presentation, to further explore GIS features, discuss recent lessons, and pose additional possibilities for application in USAID's planned and ongoing activities.

## **JULY 19 -- IMPROVING USAID HUMAN CAPITAL: HOW TO POLISH SHOES WITHOUT A BRUSH**

**Session Organizer: David Eckerson, M/HR/OD**

The first of five government-wide goals of the President's Management Agenda (PMA), a good human capital strategy (HCS) is part of a well-functioning agency. The USAID Business

Transformation Executive Committee (BTEC) tasked the Human Capital Subcommittee with Developing an HCS for the Agency.

The presentation will cover a range of issues confronted during the first year of implementation of the Agency's Human Capital Strategy. David Eckerson will address challenges faced by the Agency to attain 'green' on progress under the human capital component of the PMA. Finally, the presentation will provide insight into the Workforce Planning Model developed by USAID that is destined to replace the infamous overseas staffing template in determining bureau and overseas mission ceilings. The session will include time for questions and answers from the attendees.

## **JULY 26 -- THE PUBLIC HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF DISASTERS**

**Session Organizer: Anne Ralte, PPC/P**

The impact of disasters on public health has received broader attention with increases in their occurrence and the number of people affected. The management of humanitarian assistance involves many more and different players, and disaster management is recognized as a significant priority of the public health system. Prevention, mitigation, and preparedness are part of the vocabulary of public health officials in national and international organizations. More importantly, these techniques are used to advance the cause of reducing mortality and morbidity from disasters. Although all disasters are unique, similarities exist among their health effects. Recognizing these common elements can ensure better management of limited resources.

Addressing these challenges, a second edition of the book, *Public Health Consequences of Disasters*, will be published later this year. Edited by Dr. Eric Noji, this book discusses aspects of public health and disaster response. A primer for humanitarian practitioners and policy makers, the book provides state-of-the-art knowledge, best practices, and recommendations. A panel will highlight those chapters of particular relevance to USAID with an overall summary of the state-of-the-art advances in technologies on disasters.

## **AUGUST 2 -- PUBLIC-PRIVATE ALLIANCES IN DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE**

**Session Organizers: Dan Runde, GDA and Rory Donohoe, GDA**

Since 2001, the Global Development Alliance (GDA) business model has led to the creation of nearly 300 alliances which have used \$1.1 billion in Agency funds to leverage \$3.7 billion in private sector funds. The success of GDA has made it a finalist for Harvard's Kennedy School of Government "Innovations in American Government" Award. There is a general perception that public-private alliances lend themselves most easily to economic growth activities, as most people tend to focus on the corporate community when exploring non-traditional partners to work with. With the understanding that public-private alliances can provide opportunities and resources in other sectors, the GDA Secretariat will highlight democracy-building and governance alliances.

A panel of alliance partners working in democracy and governance will present their work and collaboration experience. Additionally the panel will share their views in the future of democracy and governance partnership.

## **AUGUST 9 -- FOREIGN AID AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM: AN EVALUATION PERSPECTIVE**

**Session Organizer: Gary Vaughan, PPC/ESPA**

USAID's evaluation program is focusing on today's important development challenges. Co-sponsored with the USAID policy office, this seminar session will present conclusions from a recent review on Foreign Aid and the War on Terrorism. The study identifies underlying causes, consequences and implications of terrorism for development assistance. Recommendations for specific development strategies and activities to help grapple with terrorism and its complex social, economic and conflict antecedents will be presented to serve as the basis for discussion.

David Adams, Director of the Center for Development Information and Evaluation (CDIE), will open the session with a brief overview of various CDIE studies on insurgency, post-conflict and fragile states and the Administrator's Evaluation Revitalization Initiative. The conclusions from the referenced study will then be presented, followed by an interactive Q&A session. The session will conclude with brief notes on related studies by the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination and by other bureaus.

## **AUGUST 16 -- OPERATING IN HIGH THREAT ENVIRONMENTS**

**Session Organizer: Shannon Green, ANE/SPO/SPPM**

Since September 11, 2001, some U.S. missions have faced increasingly difficult operating circumstances. In these high-threat environments, there are daily challenges to implementing assistance programs: limited ability to visit project sites, publicize activities, work closely with local beneficiaries, and allocate resources relative to the size of the assistance program. As a result, the U.S. government and the donor community have developed innovative approaches in monitoring and evaluation, public diplomacy, civil-military cooperation, and program implementation.

This session is designed to encourage participants to explore new approaches and share experiences. It will focus on four themes: (1) the central role of locally-hired staff and local implementing partners; (2) the importance of teamwork within a mission; (3) the importance of balancing security with the need to take some risks to implement assistance programs; and (4) the need for flexibility in program design, implementation, and evaluation.

## **AUGUST 30 --GENDER AND CONFLICT IN AFRICA: RESEARCH PRESENTATION ON BEST PRACTICES, RESOURCES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

**Session Organizer: Afia Zakiya, Ph.D., AFR Gender Advisor**

More than 50 percent of the world's active violent internal and regional conflicts are in Africa. These conflicts have directly or indirectly affected over 75 percent of the region's countries and populations, conscripted over 300,000 child soldiers, displaced over 30 million people, caused over one million deaths, destroyed social and economic infrastructure, damaged the environment, weakened institutions of governance, and generally impeded equitable and sustainable development. When rebuilding conflict-affected societies, it is necessary to develop and support measures for strengthening the governance, security, justice, economic and social institutions, and capacities of the population. This task is particularly daunting in a post-conflict setting. It is essential to draw on the assets, experiences and dedication at the local level and among all sectors of society. War and conflict affect men, women, boys and girls.

A panel will present findings of a state-of-the-art survey of best practices and lessons learned on gender and peace-building, conflict and post-conflict societies in Africa that can serve as resources for managers and practitioners designing and implementing projects in conflict-affected societies. Findings come from research conducted to provide Africa Bureau missions and partners with guidance for responding to USAID's new Africa strategic framework. The framework focuses attention on fragile states in Africa and ways to avert, mitigate, or resolve conflict through building capacity of partners and institutions and using indigenous methods.